

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

WHO NEEDS IT?

Anyone proposing to conduct activities which may result in a discharge to surface waters and which require a federal permit (e.g., projects involving dredging or fill in waters of the United States, subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting requirements under Clean Water Act Section 404). Surface waters include:

- Wetlands
- Riparian Zones
- Streambeds
- Lakes
- All Other Surface Waters

WHAT IS IT?

An order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board determining that the proposed project will not violate water quality standards and will protect the water for beneficial uses. At a minimum, any loss of wetlands must be replaced by a wetland of at least equal function, value and area.

HOW DO YOU OBTAIN IT?

Submit a completed Water Quality Certification Application available (with instructions) at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwgcb6/files/401cert.pdf. The application should include: applicant information; detailed project description/schedule; copies of applicable federal, state, or local permits or permit applications (e.g., Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Agreements with California Department of Fish & Game); and copies of any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental documents; estimated quantity of each water body type disturbed (including volume of any dredged material and/or acreage of any fill); and a detailed description of measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.

(Incomplete applications will be sent back to the applicant and may result in significant time delays in the receipt of project approval and certification.)

Include a \$500.00 check (made out to the "State Water Resources Control Board") with your application as a "fee deposit." **NOTE:** Additional fees may be required if a technically-conditioned Certification (i.e., a Certification including conditions in addition to standard conditions listed in CWC Title 23 Section 3860) is issued, or if the project involves greater than one acre of fill material, or greater than 10,000 cubic yards of dredged material. The fee schedule for Certification is contained in CWC Title 23 Section 2200(1)(C). You will be advised if fees are necessary in

addition to the \$500 fee deposit. Contact the Regional Board if you need more information regarding fees.

The completed application with appropriate enclosures and fees should be mailed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Questions?

Call the Regional Board at (530) 542-5400.